(b) The amount of compensation will be given as per rules.

Duty on palm oil

2390. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether vanaspati producers have revived their demand to cut duty on palm oil to reduce burden on the industry; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not propose making any change in the import duty on palm oil at present.

Amount due on sugar mills

†2391. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of dues of the sugarcane growers were outstanding against sugar mills at the end of June, 2002.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action for payment of such outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the State Governments/sugar mills, a Statement showing the Statewise position of cane price arrears as on 30.6.2002 is given below.

(c) The responsibility of ensuring timely payment of the cane price dues lies with the State Governments, who have the necessary powers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and field organizations to enforce such payments. The Central Government, besides writing to the Chief Ministers of the State from time to time for expeditious clearance of the same, had taken the following remedial measures to improve the financial health of the domestic sugar industry with a view to enabling it to reduce the cane price arrears:—

(i) The levy obligation of domestic sugar factories has been reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000 and subsequently to 15% w.e.f. 01.02.2001. This has further been reduced to 10% w.e.f. 01.03.2002. This will enable the sugar factories to sell more sugar under freesale quota in the open market and thereby obtain better realization.

(ii) Advance release of freesale sugar are being made to needy sugar factories to enable them to pay the cane price dues to the farmers.

(iii) In order to liquidate the stocks of the sugar mills, export of sugar has been allowed. The quantitative ceiling on export of sugar as well as the requirement of registration with APEDA has been dispensed with, w.e.f., 1.4.2001.

(iv) The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 has been amended empowering the State Government to recover cane price dues as arrears of land revenue.

Statement

Statewise/Zonewise position of cane price payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 2001-2002 season as on 30-06-2002

(*Fig. in Lakh Rs.*)

State/Zone	Total price payable for cane purchased during 2001-2002 upto 30-06-2002	Cane price paid upto 30-06-2002	Balance cane price payable as on 30-06-2002
1	2	3	4
Punjab	62,443.29	53,678.45	8,764.84
Haryana	66,031.00	58,198.00	7,833.00
Rajasthan	570.22	570.22	0.00

1	2	3	4
West UP	173,778.28	144,403.00	29,375.28
Central UP	198,668.80	158,114.47	40,554.33
East UP	136,918.69	104,644.85	32,273.84
Total UP.	509,365.77	407,162.32	102,203.45
Uttaranchal	44,254.23	37,773.69	6,480.54
Madhya Pradesh	4,195.57	3,930.95	264.62
South Gujarat	76,670.32	74,442.99	2,227.33
Saurashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Gujarat	76,670.32	74,442.99	2,227.33
South Maharashtra	106,124.63	104,919.21	1,205.42
North Maharashtra	50,963.93	50,037.48	926.45
Central Maharashtra	95,752.25	90,661.39	5,090.86
Total Maharashtra	252,840.81	245,618.08	7,222.73
North Bihar	31,396.50	25,128.32	6,268.18
South Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bihar	31,396.50	25,128.32	6,268.18
Assam	117.06	112.06	5.00
Andhra Pradesh	77,395.76	68,168.41	9,227.35
Karnataka	103,456.97	96,310.04	7,146.93
Tamil Nadu	123,754.38	102,682.25	21,072.13
Kerala	392.44	353.14	39.30
Orissa	1,829.69	1,459.27	370.42
West Bengal	519.00	516.15	2.85
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	2,865.43	2,014.48	850.95
Goa	384.21	384.21	0.00
ALL INDIA TOTAL	1,358,482.65	1,178,503.03	179,979.62